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Soil and sedimentation control legislation passes Senate

LANSING – Residential property owners doing regular work around their homes and in their yards would be exempt from soil erosion and sedimentation control permits and fees under legislation passed today in the Senate, Sen. Jud Gilbert announced.

“Residents should not be issued tickets and fines for simply planting a garden in their backyard,” said Gilbert, R-Algonac. “Private property owners along the water should be able to maintain and enjoy their land just like any other property owner. This bill will still allow the control of soil erosion while ensuring that basic maintenance activities are not infringed on.”

Senate Bill 282 would exempt certain residential activities like gardening, landscaping, fencing and other outdoor household maintenance from the permit requirements of Michigan’s soil and sedimentation control program.

The bill also would allow the Department of Environmental Quality to issue general permits for other activities such as seawall maintenance, while providing that local enforcing agencies could not charge more than their administrative costs for the certificate of coverage.

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